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*Anne Rice's*  
INTERVIEW WITH THE  
VAMPIRE™

2





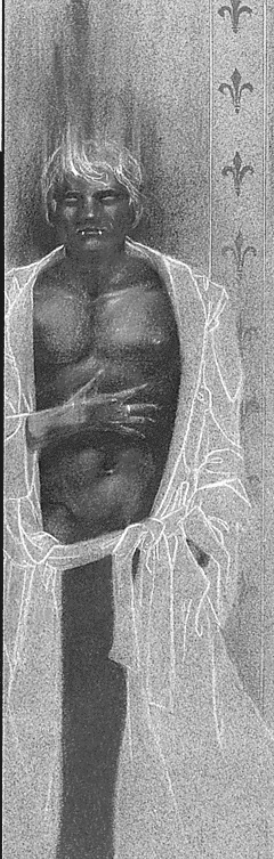
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**INTERVIEW WITH  
THE VAMPIRE #2**

**CYNTHY J. WOOD  
DAERICK GROSS, SR.  
VICKIE WILLIAMS**

**\$2<sup>50</sup> U.S./\$2<sup>95</sup> Can.**

*Not intended for children*





SO, THERE YOU WERE--WITH ANOTHER VAMPIRE THAT YOU HATED...

I HAD NO CHOICE. HE MADE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE. HE HINTED THAT THERE WAS MUCH I DIDN'T KNOW, AND THAT HE ALONE COULD TELL ME.



IN FACT, MOST OF IT WAS PRACTICAL--HOW TO TRAVEL BY SHIP--A CORPSE OF A RELATIVE, SHOOPERS AND TAILORS WHO WOULD DO BUSINESS AFTER HOURS...

THOSE AGENTS WILLING TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN CABARETS AND RESTAURANTS.



LESTAT HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN ACQUIRING MONEY, BUT I SUSPECT THAT--BENEATH HIS GENTLEMANLY VENEER--HE WAS PAINFULLY IGNORANT OF THE SIMPLEST FINANCIAL TRANSACTION.

SO THE PRICE OF INDIGO IS STEADY. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF SUGAR AS A CASH CROP IN THE NEAR FUTURE?



THAT'S WHY HE NEEDED ME, AND NEEDED ME TO STAY--AS AN INVESTOR AND MANAGER OF THE SKILLS OF MORTAL LIFE WHICH BECAME MOST VALUABLE IN THIS LIFE AFTER.





NEW ORLEANS WAS LIKE NO OTHER  
CITY IN AMERICA. IT WAS SO SIMPLE  
FOR US TO LIVE THERE THEN.

A CITY WHERE A VAMPIRE COULD  
WALK THE STREETS AND ATTRACT  
VERY LITTLE ATTENTION.

*Death and Betrayal --  
Am I Damned?*

Adapting  
CYNTHY J. WOOD

Painting  
DAVID GROSS

Calligraphy  
VICKIE WILLIAMS

Editing  
DAVID CAMPITI &  
CYNTHY J. WOOD



THAT MAN-HON  
PALE, HOW HE GLEAMS--  
HOW HE MOVES. IT'S NOT  
NATURAL.

IT IS REMARKABLE, BECAUSE OF  
ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO  
STAYED FOR ANY TIME AND LEFT  
SOME MONUMENT, SOME STRUCTURE,  
WHICH STILL STANDS.

THE MOON THAT ROSE OVER  
NEW ORLEANS THEN,  
STILL RISES. THE  
FEELING OF THE CITY  
REMAINS THE SAME.



WHAT WAS IT? YES-- MONEY. WE HAD TO MAKE MONEY. I TOLD YOU THAT LESTAT COULD STEAL-- BUT IT WAS THE INVESTMENT AFTERWARDS THAT MATTERED.

THE BETTER THE HUMAN, THE BETTER HE LIKED IT. A FRESH YOUNG GIRL WAS HIS FAVORITE FIRST FOOD OF THE EVENING.

BUT THE TRIUMPHANT KILL FOR LESTAT WAS A YOUNG MAN. A YOUNG MAN ABOUT YOUR AGE WOULD HAVE APPEALED TO HIM PARTICULARLY.

YES, OF COURSE. LESTAT DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT THEY REPRESENTED THE GREATEST LOSS TO HIM. FOR THEY STOOD AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE GREATEST POSSIBILITY.

I GO AHEAD OF MYSELF. I KILLED ONLY ANIMALS, BUT I'LL GET TO THAT. LESTAT KILLED PEOPLE-- AS MANY AS THREE OR FOUR A NIGHT.

BUT THEN, LESTAT UNDERSTOOD NOTHING.

I HAVE A PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR YOU. UP THE RIVER FROM US, THE FRENIERE FAMILY HAD HOPES OF MAKING A FORTUNE IN SUGAR. THE REFINING PROCESS HAD JUST BEEN INVENTED.

HOW IRONIC! THIS SUGAR IS A POISON-- JUST LIKE THE ESSENCE OF LIFE IN NEW ORLEANS. SO SWEET THAT IT CAN BE FATAL, SO RICHLY ENTICING THAT ALL OTHER VALUES ARE FORGOTTEN.





THERE WERE FIVE OF THIS GENERATION, AND THE SISTERS DEPENDED UPON THEIR BROTHER AS MY FAMILY DID ON ME.

HE WAS TO MANAGE THE BUSINESS, ARRANGE MARRIAGES FOR THEM. HE WAS TO FIGHT, BARGAIN, AND KEEP THE MATERIAL WORLD FROM THAT OF FRENIERE.

YOU HAVE INSULTED ME, SIR, AND I DEMAND SATISFACTION! FOUR IN THE MORNING, NEAR THE NORTH GATE, HAVE YOUR SWORD READY.

AS YOU WILL, SIR.

IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING, BUT LIKE MOST YOUNG CREOLES, THIS ONE WAS WILLING TO DIE FOR NOTHING THEY BOTH WERE.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

WE CANNOT DIE.

WE SHALL BE RUINED.

NO, WE WILL PREVAIL. OUR BROTHER WILL NOT DIE. ALL WILL BE WELL, GO QUIET YOURSELVES.

BABETTE WAS AS SMART AS HER BROTHER, AND FAR WISER. BUT SHE HAD NEVER BEEN EDUCATED. THEY WERE DEPENDENT ON HIM--AND KNEW IT WELL.

AHH--EVEN IF HONOR WOULD LET ME WITHDRAW, I COULD NOT. I WOULD BE PURSUED TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO "SATISFY" HIS OFFENDED SENSIBILITIES.

LESTAT HAD CHOSEN THIS YOUNG MAN LONG AGO. ONLY I HAD PREVENTED HIS DEATH THUS FAR.

NOW LESTAT WAS BENT ON HAVING HIM BEFORE THE CREOLE COULD KILL FRENIERE.

I INTENDED TO PREVENT THAT.



LET HIM HAVE  
HIS CHANCE! YOU WILL  
NOT BLIT YOURSELF ON  
THE LIFE BLOOD OF AN  
ENTIRE FAMILY!

DAMN YOU, LOUIS--  
RELEASE ME NOW! YOU  
DO NOT WANT TO FACE  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF  
WHAT YOU DO!

THE DUEL ENDED WITH A QUICK  
THRUST OF FRENIERE'S ROPIER.



THAT WAS JUST THE CHANCE LESTAT  
NEEDED. HE HAD PREMIERE SPIRITED  
AWAY BEFORE HIS FRIENDS REALIZED  
THAT HE WAS GONE.



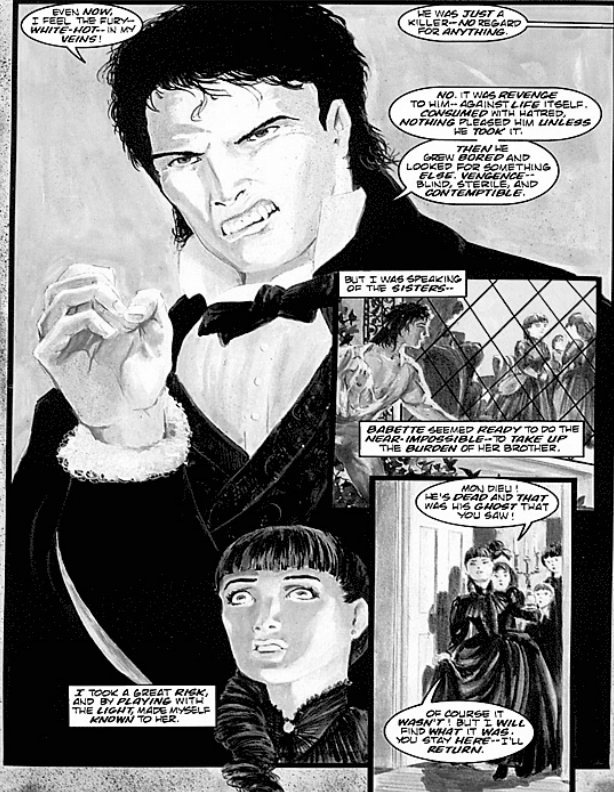
STOP!  
LESTAT--DAMN  
YOU--

UGH

YOU THOUGHT  
TO DENY ME HIM, DID  
YOU? WELL, I WON IN  
THE END.

WE HAVE LESS THAN  
AN HOUR TO RETURN HOME,  
SINCE YOU SAW FIT TO  
INTERFERE, I WILL REPAY  
YOU FOR THAT.

IF I DIDN'T LIKE  
THE LIFE OF A SOUTHERN  
PLANTER SO MUCH, I'D  
FINISH YOU TONIGHT. I  
COULD DRIVE YOUR HORSES  
AWAY AND FORCE YOU TO  
BURY YOURSELF IN THE  
MUD AND SMOTHER.



EVEN NOW,  
I FEEL THE FURY--  
WHITE--NOT--IN MY  
VEINS!

WE WAS JUST A  
KILLER--NO REGARD  
FOR ANYTHING.

NO. IT WAS REVENGE  
TO HIM--AGAINST LIFE ITSELF.  
CONSUMED WITH HATRED,  
NOTHING PLEASSED HIM UNLESS  
HE TOOK IT.

THEN HE  
GREW BORED AND  
LOOKED FOR SOMETHING  
ELSE. VENGEANCE  
BLIND, STERILE, AND  
CONTEMPTIBLE.

BUT I WAS SPEAKING  
OF THE SISTERS--



BABETTE SEEMED READY TO DO THE  
NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE--TO TAKE UP  
THE BURDEN OF HER BROTHER.

I TOOK A GREAT RISK,  
AND BY PLAYING WITH  
THE LIGHT, MADE MYSELF  
KNOWN TO HER.



MON DIEU!  
HE'S DEAD AND THAT  
WAS HIS GHOST THAT  
YOU SAW!

OF COURSE IT  
WASN'T! BUT I WILL  
FIND WHAT IT WAS.  
YOU STAY HERE--I'LL  
RETURN.



I HAVE ONLY MINUTES,  
BUT MY NEWS IS OF THE  
GREATEST IMPORTANCE. YOUR  
BROTHER FOUGHT BRAVELY  
AND WON--BUT WAIT.  
HE IS DEAD.

THE LAND IS THE SAME  
AS WHEN YOUR BROTHER  
SLEPT HERE. NOTHING  
HAS CHANGED. YOU MUST  
TAKE HIS PLACE.

IF YOU DO NOT, THEN ALL  
IS LOST. LEARN WHAT YOU  
MUST KNOW. GET THE  
ANSWERS YOU NEED. TAKE  
CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE.

THE PRINCIPAL  
THING I CAME TO TELL YOU  
IS THIS--YOU CAN SAVE AND  
RULE THIS PLANTATION. DO  
NOT LET ANYONE CONVINCE  
YOU OTHERWISE.

YOUR BROTHER  
IS DEAD.



I USED ALL MY SKILL TO  
LEAVE SO SWIFTLY THAT  
I APPEARED TO VANISH.

BABETTE BECAME THE SCANDAL OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE SHE CHOSE TO RUN THE PLANTATION HERSELF.

SHE MANAGED AN IMMENSE DOWRY FOR HER YOUNGER SISTER, AND MARRIED HERSELF IN ANOTHER YEAR.

LESTAT AND I ALMOST NEVER EXCHANGED WORDS. I COULDN'T BE CERTAIN HE'D TOLD ME ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.

GREAT PRETENSE WAS NECESSARY. A "MALARIAL CHILL" OVERCAME ME FOR MY SISTER'S WEDDING--

--AND AGAIN THE MORNING OF MY MOTHER'S FUNERAL.



FINISH YOUR MEALS, YOUNG MEN. AND DON'T DRINK SO FAST. I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT WINE CAN DO TO YOU.



PLEASE EXCUSE THE DINNERS, BUT I HAVE SUCH A HEADACHE THAT ANY LIGHT CAUSES ME PAIN.

AGAIN LOUIS?  
I DO WISH YOU WOULD SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT THOSE. THEY ARE SO FREQUENT.



THEY PASS. DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF. NOW--CAN WE DISCUSS THE INVESTMENTS I WANT YOU TO MAKE?

WE BEGAN TO HAVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE SLAVES. THAT IS WRONG--NOT "OUR."  
I WAS STILL LEGALLY ALIVE AND SIGNED OVER NOTHING TO LEGAT.

THESE SLAVES WERE VERY BLACK AND TOTALLY FOREIGN--THEY SPOKE IN AFRICAN TONGUES AND SANG AFRICAN SONGS.

SLAVERY WAS THE CURSE OF THEIR EXISTENCE, BUT THEY HAD NOT YET BEEN ROBBED OF THEIR HERITAGE. THEY WEREN'T DESTROYED AS AFRICANS THEN.

THROUGH THE DOOR I SAW THEM--PLAY EATING WITH NO FOOD OR DRINK-- FACES ALL WHITE, AND THE POOR OLD MAN...

THAT OTHER MAN--HE HAS NO BED IN HIS ROOM-- BUT A COFFIN! HE SLEEPS IN THAT, I KNOW!

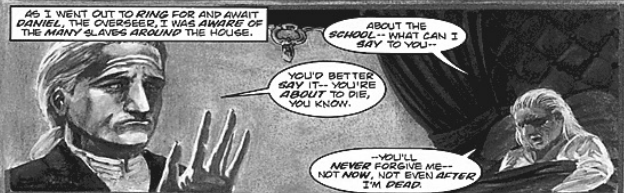
THEY ARE EVIL--DEVILS!! THE BODIES WE FIND--THE DEAD CATTLE--THE FLOODS THIS SPRING. THEY ARE THE CAUSE.

WE MUST KILL THEM--SOON

HE ISN'T MINE! DEAR GOD--ONE OF FOURNIERE'S. WE WILL BE SAFE NOWHERE.









I HAD TO KILL HIM. I WAS ABOUT TO DRAIN HIM--BUT REALIZED THAT THIS WAS A MAN--AND STOPPED.









COULD THE FIRE HAVE HURT YOU?  
AND WASN'T THE ORATORY SAFE?

CERTAINLY AND NO, IT WAS NOT.  
SOME OF THE SLAVES ESCAPED AND  
WOULD ALMOST DEFINITELY HEAD  
FOR THE PREMIERE PLANTATION.



I HAD NO INTENTION OF  
STAYING THERE THE NIGHT,  
BUT THERE WAS LITTLE  
TIME TO GO ELSEWHERE.



WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING? THEY'VE GONE  
AND YOU ARE DESTROYING  
IT ALL!

GET YOUR  
COFFIN OUT. YOU  
HAVE THREE HOURS  
UNTIL DAWN.



YOU WENT TO THE  
WOMAN, *SABETTE*!



YES, BABETTE NOW  
LIVED AT FRENIERE  
WITH HER YOUNG  
HUSBAND. I HAD TIME  
ENOUGH TO LOAD MY  
COFFIN AND GO.

BUT WHAT  
ABOUT  
LESTAT?

LESTAT WENT WITH  
ME. HE'D INTENDED TO  
GO ON TO NEW ORLEANS,  
BUT IT WAS VERY NEAR  
DAWN—AND HE MAY NOT  
HAVE MADE IT.

BABETTE HAD SCANDALIZED  
THE COAST BY MANAGING  
THE PLANTATION ALONE. SHE  
SUFFERED THE SOCIAL  
OSTRACISM GREATLY.



YES, I'VE  
RETURNED, AND  
I CAN HELP.

DON'T  
EXPECT PEOPLE TO  
UNDERSTAND THEY  
ARE FOOLS.



THEY EXPECT YOU  
TO RETIRE BECAUSE  
YOUR BROTHER DIED.  
YOU MUST DEFFY THEM—  
WITH UTTER PURITY AND  
CONFIDENCE.

YOU MUST GIVE  
A BALL—A PHILANTHROPIC  
BALL FOR A RELIGIOUS CAUSE.  
INVITE YOUR MOTHER'S DEAREST  
FRIENDS TO CHAPERONE. WITH  
CONFIDENCE.



A STROKE  
OF GENIUS!  
OF COURSE.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHO YOU  
ARE, AND  
YOU WILL NOT  
TELL ME.



BUT I CAN  
ONLY THINK  
OF YOU AS AN  
ANGEL.



OH, NO.

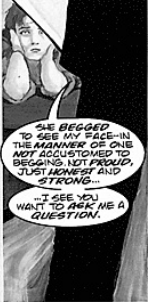
DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK ME ANYTHING. IF I HELD SOMETHING TOO CLOSE FOR YOU TO ASK ABOUT, I WOULDN'T BRING IT UP IN THE FIRST PLACE.



ASK ME.

NO, NOT AT ALL. COMFORTING THE OLD MAN. PROTECTING YOUNG FRENIERE—ALL THIS YOU'VE EXPLAINED.

BUT I WAS WONDERING—DID YOU HAVE A SPECIAL FEELING FOR BABETTE THAT CAUSED YOU TO PROTECT FRENIERE?



SHE BEGGED TO SEE MY FACE—IN THE MANNER OF ONE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO BEGGING. NOT PROUD, JUST HONEST AND STRONG...

"I SEE YOU WANT TO ASK ME A QUESTION.



BABETTE, THE WAY YOU SPEAK OF HER—AS IF YOUR FEELINGS WERE SPECIAL.

DID I GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION THAT I COULD NOT FEEL?







NO--IT WAS A QUESTION RIGHT TO THE POINT.

I FEEL LOVE, AND I FELT SOME MEASURE OF IT FOR BABETTE, THOUGH NOT THE GREATEST LOVE I'VE FELT FOR A HUMAN BEING.

IT WAS FORESHADOWED BY BABETTE.

RETURNING TO THE STORY--

UNKNOWN TO HER, I WOULD VISIT ON SUMMER EVENINGS, I SAW THAT SHE WAS HAPPY, AND FELT A MEASURE OF HAPPINESS AS A RESULT.

SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO TAKE THEM. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

YOU FOOL! WHAT WOULD THAT SOLVE? IDIOT.

I KNOW WHY YOU MADE ME--TO MANAGE THINGS. I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS. YOU COULDN'T LIVE BY YOURSELF.

YOU NEED ME, TOUCH ANYONE HERE--I'LL GET RID OF YOU!

BUT I STILL HAVE MUCH TO TELL YOU--THINGS AND PEOPLE THAT CAN KILL YOU--PLACES IN THE WORLD YOU MUST NEVER GO.

I HAVEN'T TIME FOR THIS.

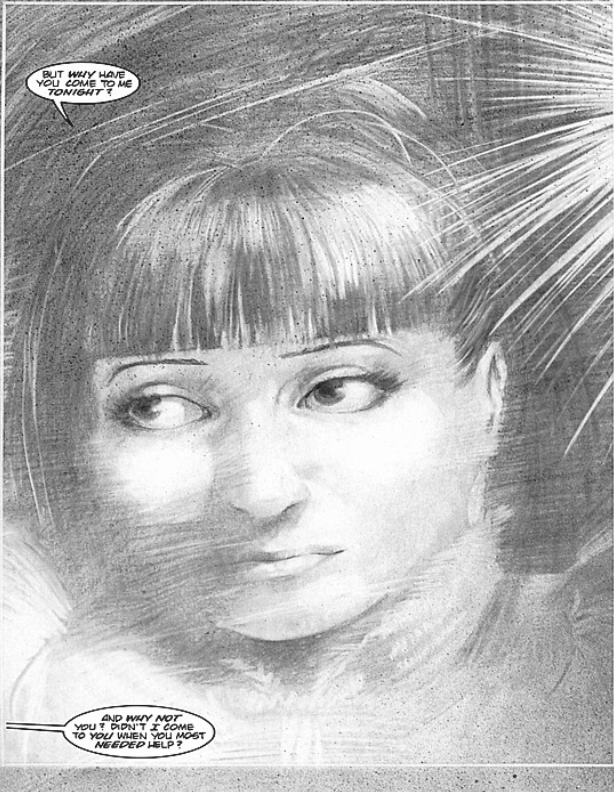


*Sent carriages and  
slaves to fight the  
fire at Point Du Lac.  
The slaves that ran  
here were spreading  
foolish tales and have  
been isolated... I fear  
that there's been  
murder done there.*

BABETTE..  
DON'T TURN. I'VE  
ONLY MOMENTS  
AND I NEED YOUR  
HELP.

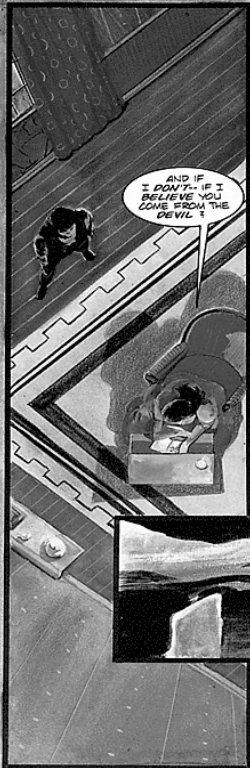
I MUST HAVE  
A ROOM TO REST IN.  
I'VE NEVER BROUGHT  
YOU WARM. I ASK YOU  
NOW FOR A KEY AND A  
PROMISE--

--THAT NO  
ONE TRY TO ENTER  
THAT ROOM UNTIL TONIGHT.  
THEN I WILL TELL  
YOU ALL.



BUT WHY HAVE  
YOU COME TO ME  
TONIGHT ?

AND WHY NOT  
YOU ? DIDN'T I COME  
TO YOU WHEN YOU MOST  
NEEDED HELP ?





IF YOU DON'T-  
IF YOU BELIEVE ME  
TO BE THE DEVIL-- I  
SHALL DIE.

GIVE ME  
THE KEY.



I COULD KILL  
YOU NOW IF I CHOSE--  
DO YOU SEE ?

BUT I  
WOULD NOT. I WOULD  
DIE RATHER THAN  
THAT.

I WILL  
DIE IF YOU DON'T  
GIVE ME A KEY AS  
I ASK.

IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.  
WHAT SHE THOUGHT,  
I DON'T KNOW.

AND SHE HAD LISTENED  
TO THE SLAVES' STORIES.

BABETTE NOT ONLY  
RESPECTED MY WISHES--  
SHE LOCKED THE DOOR  
FROM WITHOUT.



I ONLY NEEDED  
YOU WHILE MY FATHER  
LIVED. I'LL PUT UP WITH  
NO TRICKS FROM YOU--  
I WARN YOU !

YOU ASKED ABOUT DETACHMENT--IT  
ALLOWS ONE TO DO TWO THINGS AT  
ONCE. ONE CAN FACE THE THREAT  
OF DEATH AND PONDER THE VERY  
ABSTRACT AT THE SAME TIME.



I THOUGHT OF HOW **SUBLIME**  
A **FRIENDSHIP** WITH **LESTAT**  
COULD HAVE BEEN--HOW MUCH  
WE COULD HAVE SHARED.

I COULD NEVER KNOW **BABETTE**  
THAT WAY EXCEPT IN THE  
EMBRACE OF DEATH WHEN MY **SOUL**  
AND **HEART** WOULD BECOME ONE.

MY **SOUL** WANTED TO KNOW  
HER **WITHOUT** ROBBING  
HER OF EVERY **BREATH**--  
EVERY **DROP** OF **BLOOD**.

BUT **LESTAT**! HOW WE  
COULD HAVE **KNOWN**  
EACH OTHER, HIS FATHER  
CALLED HIM **BRILLIANT**--  
A **LOVER** OF **BOOKS**. I  
KNEW **ONLY** THE **LESTAT**  
WHO **SNEEZED** AT MY  
**LIBRARY**.

I **KNEW** WE MUST  
**SEPARATE** AFTER THIS.  
I **STAYED** **ONLY**  
THROUGH **FEAR**--THAT HE  
KNEW **SOMETHING MORE**--  
AND BECAUSE HE WAS  
THE **ONLY** OTHER  
**VAMPIRE** I **KNEW**.

WE NEVER TOLD ME HOW  
WE BECAME A **VAMPIRE**--  
OR HOW TO FIND OTHERS.



BE **READY**. WE ARE  
**STRONGER** AND **FASTER**.  
**REMEMBER**--**STRIKE** **FEAR**.  
DON'T BE **SENTIMENTAL**.  
NOW! YOU'LL **LOST** US  
EVERYTHING.

DO YOU  
WISH TO BE ON  
YOUR OWN AFTER  
THIS?



I WISH TO GET TO  
**NEW ORLEANS**! YOU DON'T  
KNOW YOUR **POWER** YET--  
**PERSUADE** THE **WOMAN**.

IF SHE COMES WITH  
OTHERS, **PREPARE** TO **ACT**  
LIKE **WHAT** YOU ARE.







WHO ARE  
YOU ?

YOU ARE FROM  
THE DEVIL. YOU WERE  
FROM THE DEVIL WHEN YOU  
CAME TO ME !



THE  
DEVIL ! ? !

✱ GASP ✱

YOU GET THE  
CARRIAGE ! GET  
IT NOW AND THE  
HORSES.

YOU ARE IN  
MORTAL DANGER--  
DON'T TALK OF  
DEVILS !







YOU DON'T  
ANSWER ME, I'M NOT  
GIVING YOU WHAT YOU  
WANT, AM I?

YOU WANTED AN  
INTERVIEW--SOMETHING  
TO BROADCAST ON THE  
RADIO.



THAT  
DOESN'T MATTER!  
I'LL THROW THE  
TAPES AWAY IF YOU  
WANT!

I CAN'T SAY  
I UNDERSTAND  
IT ALL--YOU'D KNOW  
I WAS LYING IF  
I DID.

SO HOW CAN I  
ASK YOU TO GO ON,  
EXCEPT TO SAY THAT  
WHAT I DO UNDERSTAND  
IS LIKE--NOTHING I'VE  
EVER UNDERSTOOD  
BEFORE.

WILL YOU  
PLEASE  
GO ON?



WHY?

BECAUSE  
I WANT TO  
HEAR IT..

--BECAUSE I  
WANT TO KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED.